



*Curious George Doll recalled due to Lead Exposure on November 8, 2007  
(Aqua Dots a popular children's toy which was recalled by CPSC on November 7, 2007)*

### Healthy Holidays - Keeping Our Kids Healthy this Holiday Season

Toys are supposed to be fun – not frightening.

With the mounting reports of toy recalls, many families are left wondering how to keep their children safe this holiday season. All told, more than more than 25 million toys have been recalled this year – with the three leading causes including; lead content, hazardous chemicals and detachable magnets, all of which can cause serious harm to young children.

The issue of toy safety has drawn widespread attention as a result of the alarming number of children's toys and products that have been contaminated with lead based paint. Many times, children are exposed to lead from toys that have been made in other countries and then imported into the United States. With nearly 80 percent of all toys sold in the United States coming from China, it can be hard to find ways to protect your children. Below are several resources to help families keep children safe this holiday season.

### Lead Exposure in Children's Toys

Lead is a well known health hazard which is invisible to the naked eye and has no smell. With young children placing toys, fingers, and other objects in their mouth, they raise their risk of lead exposure.

### How to Test a Toy for Lead?

Only a certified laboratory can accurately test a toy for lead. While do-it-yourself lead testing kits are available at many local hardware stores, consumers should use caution when using these kits. According to the Consumer Product Safety Agency (CPSC), these tests can produce false negatives, and are only 50-percent accurate.

### How Can I Limit My Child's Exposure to Lead in Toys?

The Consumer Federation of America <http://www.consumerfederation.org/> recommends the following steps:

1. Identify whether you have a product in your home that has been recalled. Go to <http://www.cpsc.gov/> to determine whether the products in your home are subject to the recall.

2. If you do have a recalled toy in your home:

- Take it out of your children's hands immediately;
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions for the recall; do not just throw out the product and;
- If the recalled toy contains lead, wipe down the other toys that were near the recalled toy to catch lead dust.

3. Beware of young children's tendencies to put small toys in their mouths.



*Laugh and Learn Bunny recalled because of choking hazard.*

4. Beware of choking hazards, including small magnets. To determine if there are toys or parts of toys that may pose a choking hazard to a young child, use the inside of a toilet paper tube. If a toy or piece of a toy easily fits through, do not let children under three-years-old to play with or have access to these toys.

### **What to do if Your Child has Been Exposed to Lead? □ □ □ □**

If you have reason to believe your child has been exposed to elevated levels of lead, immediately remove the toy from your home. The only way to accurately screen for lead poisoning is through a blood lead test, which can be done by your family physician.

### **Where to Learn about Toy Recalls:**

To check if a toy has been recalled, visit the Consumer Product Safety Agency (CPSC) at <http://www.cpsc.gov/> or call 1-800-638-2772.

### **For more information, contact the following agencies:**

The Consumer Product Safety Commission, <http://www.cpsc.gov/>

Centers for Disease Control: Lead Poisoning Program, <http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/>

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration, <http://www.fda.org/>

### **What I am doing to protect our children?**

Keeping children safe is a top priority of mine. That is why I have cosponsored important pieces of legislation that will ensure our children remain safe and healthy.

- The Consumer Product Safety Modernization Act (HR 4040): This legislation would place a ban on lead in our children's products. It would also prohibit the sale of recalled items as well as create a more effective means of informing the public about these recalls.

- House Resolution H.Res.819: Express a loss of confidence and calls for the

resignation of US Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) Chairwoman Nancy Nord.

[Letter from Congressman Wilson to Parents](#)